

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NASA-01

MCT-01 ACDA-07 SSC-01 /072 W

-----091709Z 003878 /50

O P 091000Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 406

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, SE, US

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT: CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION

REF: A) STATE 129481, B) STATE 130273

C) VICTORIA 309, D) VICTORIA 312

1. RENE'S SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER BULK OF SEYCHELLES' TERRITORY AND POPULATION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS REPORTED SINCE LAST SITREP. IN ADDITION, BRITISH POLICE ADVISOR (ADMINISTRATION) STILL IN COUNTRY CONFIRMS THAT CONDITIONS HAVE RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL AT CENTRAL POLICE STATION WITH PROSPECTIVE COMMISSIONER PILLAY RUNNING THINGS SMOOTHLY. NO GUNMEN VISIBLE IN VICTORIA MORNING OF JUNE 9 AND ONLY ROAD BLOCKS REPORTED ARE AT ACCESS TO AIRPORT.

2. PERSONAL ANTAGONISMS AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS RUN DEEP IN SEYCHELLES AND IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT MANCHAM'S HARD-CORE SDP SUPPORTERS MAY ORGANIZE THEMSELVES AND ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES. THIS, OF COURSE, WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TRUE IF MANCHAM WERE TO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGE ANTI-RENE MOVEMENT, PERHAPS INCLUD-
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ING FINANCING FROM HIS WEALTHY ARAB FRIENDS. THREAT OF SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTION BY MERCENARY FORCES CAN NOT BE RULED OUT ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING VULNERABILITY OF SEYCHELLES AND LARGE NUMBER OF MANCHAN FOLLOWERS.

3. NONETHELESS, AS RECENT REPORTING INDICATES, EXTENT OF CONTROL

EXERCISED BY RENE'S REGIME OVER POPULATION, TERRITORY AND GOVERNMENT OF SEYCHELLES HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALY IN TWO DAYS SINCE INITIAL ASSESSMENT (REFTEL D). IN ADDITION, REGIME HAS SHOWN DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE COUNTER COUP ATTEMPT AND HAS LAID CLAIM TO GREATER STRENGTH WITH ENLISTMENT OF POLICE FORCES AND CONTINUING TRAINING OF IRREGULARS. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS ALSO RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED-BUT PLAUSIBLE-REPORT FROM VISITING

BRITISH REPORTER THAT RENE MAY BE ABLE TO CALL ON BODY OF TRAINED MEN FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE WHO ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST HIM IN EVENT OF MERCENARY ATTACK.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL SITUATION, CONSIDER RENE REGIME PRESENTLY SATISFIES RECOGNITION CRITERIA OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL AND REASONABLE CLAIM TO PERMANENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, RECOGNITION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VICTOR00322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770206-0195
Format: TEL
From: VICTORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770671/aaaackmh.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 460cee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 129481, 77 STATE 130273
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2207354
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT: CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PINS, SE, US, (RENE, FRANCE ALBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/460cee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009